

- We can choose our attitude in all circumstances.
- 4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Philippians 4:4 (NLT)

Happiness and Joy...

- Happiness **changes** with the **conditions** around us.
- Joy is based on **Christ** who never **changes**.

1..if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,
 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2:1-2 (NIV)

- Joy generates **unity**.

3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Philippians 2:3 (NLT)

Joy Killers:

- Living to **impress** people, not **God**.

- Living for the **applause** of people, not **God**.

2 Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right side of God's throne. Hebrews 12:2 (TEV)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

The key to joy:

- Develop a **servant's heart**.

The focus of a servant's heart is:

- An **attitude** that desires to serve the **Father** and **others**.

- We nurture joy through **humility** and **obedience**.

8 ...he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8 (NIV)

21 For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. Philippians 1:21 (NLT)

How to develop a servant's heart:

- Go **All-in** with God.

12 Dearest friends, when I was there with you, you were always so careful to follow my instructions. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to do the good things that result from being saved, obeying God with deep reverence, shrinking back from all that might displease him.

13 For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants. Philippians 2:12-13 (TLB)

- Our **words** should reflect a servant.

14 In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing.. Philippians 2:14 (TLB)

45 A good man produces good deeds from a good heart. And an evil man produces evil deeds from his hidden wickedness. Whatever is in the heart overflows into speech. Luke 6:45 (TLB)

- Live out of genuine **concern** for **others**.

20 I have no one quite like Timothy. He is loyal, and genuinely concerned for you.

21 Most people around here are looking out for themselves, with little concern for the things of Jesus.

22 But you know yourselves that Timothy's the real thing. He's been a devoted son to me as together we've delivered the Message. Philippians 2:20-22 (MSG)

- Live with **humility**.

8 ...he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8 (NIV)

12 So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Colossians 3:12 (MSG)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Would you like to have more joy in your life? How would you describe that?
- How does joy generate unity within the Body of Christ (the Church)?
- Talk about the differences and dangers of the "Joy Killers" mentioned on Sunday.
- Paul always points us to Jesus. Read Philippians 2:5-11. What stands out to you about Jesus's attitude? How was Jesus a servant?
- Do you believe that developing a servant's heart is the key to maintaining joy? Why?
- Paul says: "Go All-in with God"; What does that mean to you? How does that develop joy?
- How can our words reflect a servant?
- We are called to serve God and others. How can we develop a genuine concern for others?
- How do we live with humility before God? How do we live with humility before others?
- How does humility nurture joy?

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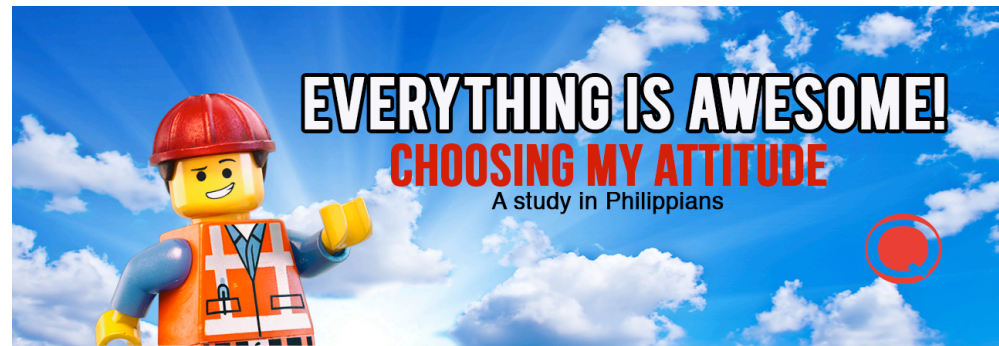
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Today's Talk..



THE KEY TO MAINTAINING JOY

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